DISCUSSION

April 11, 2017

Subject: **Urban Footprint**

Reporting Period: **March 2017-April 2017**

Staff Lead: **Mike McCoy**

Recommended Action:

For information only – no action required.

Summary:

UrbanFootprint is a powerful land use planning, modeling, and data organization framework designed to facilitate more informed planning by practitioners, public agencies, and other stakeholders. A free, public, open-source version of UrbanFootprint is now available from the Strategic Growth Council website.

Once installed, planners can explore the effects of alternative city, county and regional land use plans by quickly changing the locations and densities of proposed residential, commercial, and industrial land use types and examining the effects of different choices on a wide range of variables. Variables include:

- transportation demand
- greenhouse gas emissions
- local fiscal impacts
- water consumption
- building energy use
- household energy and transportation costs
- natural resource impacts
- public health

Planners, together with elected officials and the public, can experiment with stakeholder ideas about land uses in a fraction of the time and cost usually associated with alternatives analysis.

Update:

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and Elk Grove gave presentations to the Council at the February 9th public meeting, which resulted in productive talks with commercial consulting firms eager to support city and county clients with adoption of Urban Footprint.

PlaceWorks, of Berkeley CA – a planning firm with extensive California civic clients – has become the first private firm committed to installation of the model and training of their staff, to be provided by the SGC with support from the University of California, Davis. Other firms are in the final stages of consideration of model adoption, including firms with extensive practice in

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rural California, particularly the San Joaquin Valley, and firms with national and international planning scope.

SCAG will continue to host the model for cities and counties in their region. SCAG also intends to use Urban Footprint to coordinate city and county input into their 2020 Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).

In August 2017, SGC will host a Coding Challenge along with the Government Operations Agency and the California Department of Technology, intended to generate contributions to the core coding of the model. The Challenge will be focused on increasing user interface simplicity and model transparency, and include participation from professionals and students. SGC staff are also exploring partnerships with universities and other public and private entities. Staff anticipates presenting the results of the Challenge at the December 2017 meeting.

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